

Ripped from the ROUNDUP

Ripped straight from the pages of old Space News Roundups, here's what happened at JSC on this date:

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Vehicle testing for the Apollo program was successfully initiated last Wednesday morning at 9 a.m. (MST) when the first Little Joe II was launched at the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico.

The flight, first of a series of tests planned at the New Mexico range, was a qualified success, with five of six stated mission objectives accomplished.

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The crewmen from the Manned Spacecraft Center's Flight Crew Support Division completed a five-day vacuum chamber test September 9, in a spacecraft similar to the command and service modules to be flown on the second manned Apollo mission and on flights to the moon.

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Being at the right place at the right time paid off for the Skylab 3 crew September 6 when from their vantage point in Earth orbit 270 miles above the distorting effects of the atmosphere they observed a major flare burst out from the surface of the Sun.

"It's a big daddy," said Skylab 3 commander Alan Bean as he manned the Apollo Telescope Mount (ATM) console to record the flare's growth and movement on film in several spectral wavelengths.

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From the beginning, the center was designed to withstand a direct hit by a hurricane, and Alicia provided the first test of that design since construction began some 20 years ago.

No major structural damage was inflicted on any building on site, but six buildings – 9, 9A, 31, 36, 44 and 49 – did have roof damage and some water inside. The Center lost around 150 trees, a number of light poles and signs, and all told the damage cost is expected to exceed \$250,000.



JSC Photo S98-11014 by Steve Candler

JSC's Employee Assistance Program is staffed by, from left, Lisa Tice, administrative assistant, Peggy Halyard, counselor, and Jackie Reese, director.

JSC revitalizes Employee Assistance Program

The JSC Employee Assistance Program, under director Jackie Reese, is up for ISO recertification. The program, redeveloped and revitalized over the past year, was the first of its kind in the nation to receive ISO certification.

Reese spoke last month at the Occupational Health Conference in Orlando, Fla., about the ISO process, to help employee assistance programs from other centers prepare for certification.

The JSC program helps employees who have personal problems they or their supervisors feel are affecting job performance.

Reese also provides assessment, treatment and case management.

She earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from Michigan State University and her master's in clinical psychology from the University of Houston-Clear Lake. She is a licensed professional counselor. She has 17 years of experience in crisis intervention, and has maintained a private

practice as a psychotherapist in the Clear Lake area since 1990.

Other staff members are counselor Peggy Halyard and administrative assistant Lisa Tice.

Halyard began her career at JSC as a budget analyst in the business office. After a career change, she now serves as a counselor and case manager. Halyard earned a bachelor's in business administration and master's in clinical psychology from the University of Houston-Clear Lake. She, too, is a licensed professional counselor.

Tice provides information on services, schedules appointments, coordinates workshops, maintains the resource base for the program, and helps clients with insurance benefits. She attended college at Southwest Texas State University, and has 10 years of experience in providing support staff services to mental health practitioners.

The EAP, located in Bldg. 32, is part of the NASA Occupational Health

Program. Its purpose is to help provide a workforce that functions at the highest level of health, well-being and productivity. It helps employees deal with problems ranging from depression, anxiety, job stress, family/marital discord, and other emotional issues to alcohol abuse or other chemical dependencies.

The EAP offers free confidential evaluations, counseling, education, and referral services to civil servants and on-site contractors and their families.

EAP staff assesses employee problems and provides counseling and/or referral if necessary. If extensive treatment is needed, the staff helps develop a treatment plan and coordinate care.

Employees can contact the EAP directly at x36130, or through referral by the Occupational Health Clinic, a supervisor, or their Human Resources representative. EAP clinicians are available for emergency crisis intervention and critical incident debriefing. ■

Promotion announcements now all on-line

As part of a continuing effort to improve customer service, the Human Resources Office has started implementing ways to simplify and speed up the Competitive Placement Plan process.

Beginning October 1, the Human Resources Office will begin publicizing CPP announcements exclusively on the HRO home page at <http://hro.jsc.nasa.gov/jobs/jobs.htm> and on the Employee Services bulletin board in Bldg. 45.

Vanessa Bowen, the staffing team leader, said talks with center customers have shown that the majority of CPP applicants are now viewing announcements on the Human Resources Office home page. Many have said they like having one place where they know they can find a current listing of all announcements. In addition, both managers and employees seem to like the idea of eliminating the delays caused by having announcements printed and sent through distribution.

Bowen said she believes this change will result in "a faster and more reliable way of making information on CPP vacancies available to all JSC civil service employees."

Since hard copies of the job announcements will no longer be distributed to individual organizations, current civil service employees who wish

to apply for promotions and other job opportunities should check the home page several times a week to ensure that they don't miss a deadline.

The Human Resources Office also has simplified the application process. In the past, employees were required to fill out an application form, address the evaluation factors (Knowledges, Skills and Abilities, or KSAs), and attach a recent performance appraisal to their application packages.

The new process requires only that applicants use plain paper to address the KSAs. At the top of the write-ups, applicants should include their names, work telephone numbers, organization codes, and the vacancy announcement numbers.

Since applicants don't have to use an application form or attach their performance appraisals to their KSA write-ups, they will be able to submit their applications electronically, if they choose. The Human Resources Office now has two e-mail addresses for receiving CPP applications: CPP Applications and cpp-applications@jsc.nasa.gov.

According to Bowen, "we can expect more improvements in the near future that will help better meet the changing needs of our customers." ■

NASA extends fitness challenge deadline

The deadline for completing the requirements for the 1998 NASA Fitness Challenge at JSC is being extended to December 31. The NASA Occupational Health Office made the decision to extend the deadline, which previously had been August 31, said Larry Wier, director of JSC's Health Related Fitness Program.

The NASA Fitness Challenge is an annual agencywide competition promoting health through exercise. Participants exercise in one or a combination of different activities and verify their activities in a log sheet. The NASA center with the highest percentage of civil servants and retirees qualifying will be the winner. Special awards also will be given for total civil service, contractor and family participation as well as participation in individual sports categories.

Log sheets should be sent to the fitness staff at Mail Code AW9. A free multicolored T-shirt will still be awarded to all JSC qualifiers. The T-shirts now will be distributed after December 31. Call x30301 for additional information. ■